

**ON THE TRAIL OF DON
QUIXOTE; BEING A RECORD
OF RAMBLES IN THE ANCIENT
PROVINCE OF LA MANCHA**

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On the trail of Don Quixote; being a record of rambles in the ancient province of La Mancha by August F. Jaccaci

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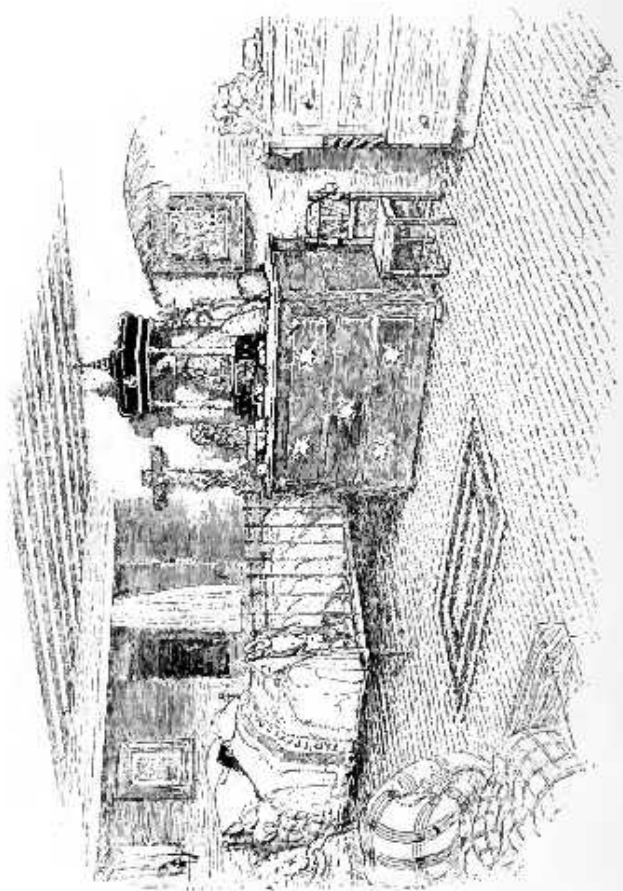
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AUGUST F. JACCACI

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OF
DON QUIXOTE

BEING A RECORD OF RAMBLES IN
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BY
AUGUST F. JACCACI

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DANIEL VIERGE

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1897

To
William C. Brownell



PREFACE

THIS book is the natural outgrowth of a friendship between artist and author—the one a Spaniard, the other familiar from youth with Spain, and both lovers of the book wherein are recounted the adventures of the good Knight and of his faithful Squire. The writer had always felt that the illustrations of Cervantes's immortal romance should be the crowning achievement of Vierge's career, and it was primarily for the purpose of giving Vierge the opportunities of gathering the documents from life and nature necessary for such an undertaking that the two friends had for years projected a journey through La Mancha, for it is incredible how few changes have taken place in the home of the hero since the days of his wanderings. The customs, the character, the manner of dress, and the speech of its inhabitants, have remained practically unchanged, and of its landmarks Cervantes has made such vivid pictures that one finds it easy to identify them.

Preface

Through unexpected circumstances the artist had to go alone, and less than a year after the author followed minutely his friend's itinerary. As it is, pictorially and in words, this book is "un livre de bonne foy," a simple record of notes and impressions from nature. The text telling of wheat-harvesting and midsummer sunshine; the pictures depicting grape-gathering, wine-making, and the lowering gray skies of Autumn.

It is safe to let speak for themselves the pictures of that master draughtsman who, in remaining scrupulously true to facts, has the power to endow them with the dramatic feeling, the nervous charm, of his artistic personality.

The writer felt, more profoundly than he could express in words, how, in such a community, the remnants and voices of the past form an essential part of the living present. He wished above all that he could have made his rambling notes ring with more of his keen delight and appreciation of active, open-air life in a rarely varied and picturesque region happily as yet despised by the tourist.

November, 1896.

A. F. J.